

## Argyll & Bute Network Meeting

**Date:** 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019

**Venue:** Malin House, Dunstaffnage European Marine Science Park, Dunstaffnage, Oban.

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**In attendance:** Josh Brown (GWT), Cathi Bertin (Befrienders SCIO), Scott Douglas (Youth Services, A&B Council).

**1. Apologies:** Anne Horn (A&B Council), Rachel McNicol (ALIEnergy)

**2. Introductions and around the room**

**3. Discussion**

CB explains the work Befrienders do, partnering young people with older volunteers. Young people are referred from many different places; NHS, social care, parents/family etc. Each volunteer has 1 young person they get to know and these relationships can last as long as 10 years. The focus is very much on having 'normal' social interactions – i.e. going to the befrienders' house, getting to know each other (and each other's families if appropriate) as friends not as 'client' or as a formal relationship. Befrienders SCIO has been going for 31 years and this model has proved very successful. They have good connections to the Befrienders Network Scotland. They're also looking for funding to work with 18-25 year olds.

SD works with young people without positive destinations, 16-19 years old. He uses the Men's Shed space in Oban for some of the work they do. He explains it would be useful to make better connections with local care homes

**4. What would be useful for those present?**

JB asks for what those present would like GWT/the network to help with. It's suggested that obviously having more people present would be useful and that Video Conferencing is something that many people would be keen to do (this was echoed at the Campbeltown meeting). We then discuss this and options for venues. Fire stations across A&B have free bookable spaces and council buildings, colleges and police stations have video conferencing capabilities for those wishing to join but unable to from home/their work place. SD suggests doing a test run with the technology first to avoid problems.

**5. Generations Working Together – national update**

New Early Years IG Resource – JB shares the new GWT publication for Early Years' practitioners (which is available for download here:

<https://generationsworkingtogether.org/resources/intergenerational-guide-in-early-learning-and-childcare>) which was launched at the National Conference on March 6<sup>th</sup>.

Details of the conference and our Recognition Award winners are here:

<https://generationsworkingtogether.org/news/gwt-conference-2019-26-03-2019>

[www.generationsworkingtogether.org](http://www.generationsworkingtogether.org)

Generations Working Together is a Scottish Charity Incorporated Organisation (SCIO)  
Charity Number SC045851

Training – JB explains that training is now offered on request and that if we can get sufficient numbers we're able to offer a course anywhere. Organisations/individuals are welcome to request a training course and can find details as below:

[Intergenerational Training for Trainers & Practitioners](#) – this 1-day CPD accredited course looks at how to bring generations together, measure and monitor the impact of your project

Plus the next edition of the [International Certificate in Intergenerational Learning \(ICIL\)](#) begins on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April. This is a 6-week course run in collaboration with and accredited by, the University of Granada. It also gives students 50 hours of CPD accredited learning.

Dr. Ali Somers, of Apples & Honey Nightingale, has recently [published her report](#) detailing the findings of her research into the benefits that intergenerational work has on the wellbeing of older residents within the care home. A key finding is that IG work can be 'prescribed' as an anti-depressant.

## 6. Sharing intergenerational news, ideas and networking

JB asks for details of local projects and activities that it would be useful to connect with:

Young people from North Argyll [Youth Forum](#) recently served-up food in the Hope kitchen, which is connected to the '[Green shoots](#)' community garden.

[Oban Youth Café](#), which has been running for 20+ years, has a range of activities including an intergenerational café with pupils from Oban High.

The [Rockfield Centre](#) is a key hub for community arts programmes and much of its work is intergenerational by nature.

Oban High School have run a project in collaboration with Adult Education, where pupils help to teach older people how to use social media.

The JAM (Just About Music) group in Lochgilphead, is run by [Mid Argyll Youth Development Services](#) and often puts on performances in the community.

There is a [Playlist for Life](#) project running in Lochgilphead.

Also mention of the work [Nordfoff Robbins](#) charity.

It is mentioned that there are currently lots of cuts to Youth Services in A&B and many young people [protesting against this](#).

SD mentions that there are lots of young people looking for work in the area and that care homes are similarly looking for staff. There is scope for raising the profile of work in care homes through intergenerational work.

## 7. A.O.B.

## 8. Next meeting – June 19<sup>th</sup>, tbc but likely Helensburgh & Lomond Civic Centre. [Check here for confirmation](#).

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